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NORTHERN DIVISION
OFFICE OF REPORTS AND ESTIMATES
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WORKING PAPER

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NORTHERN DIVISION WEEKLY

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5 December 1949

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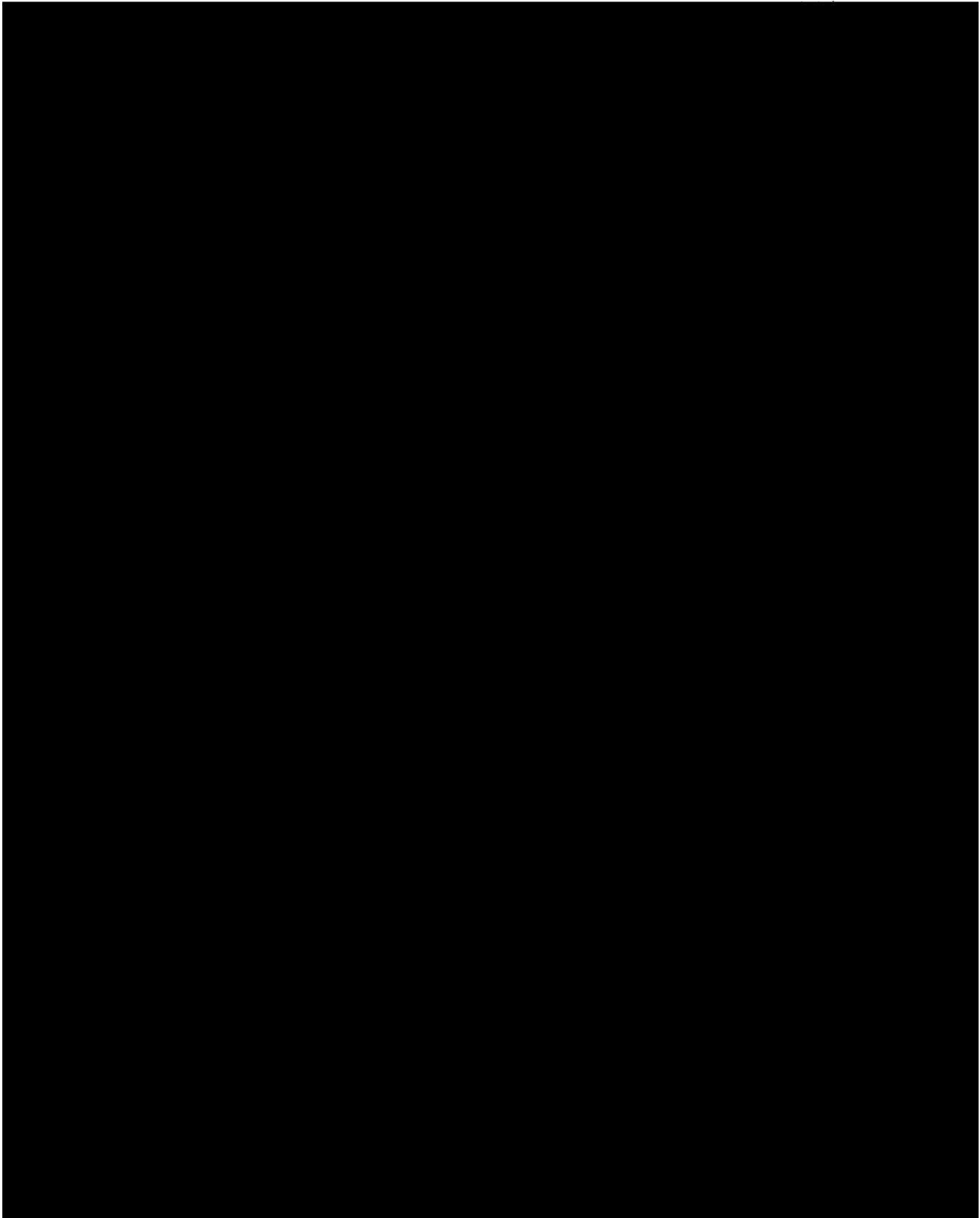
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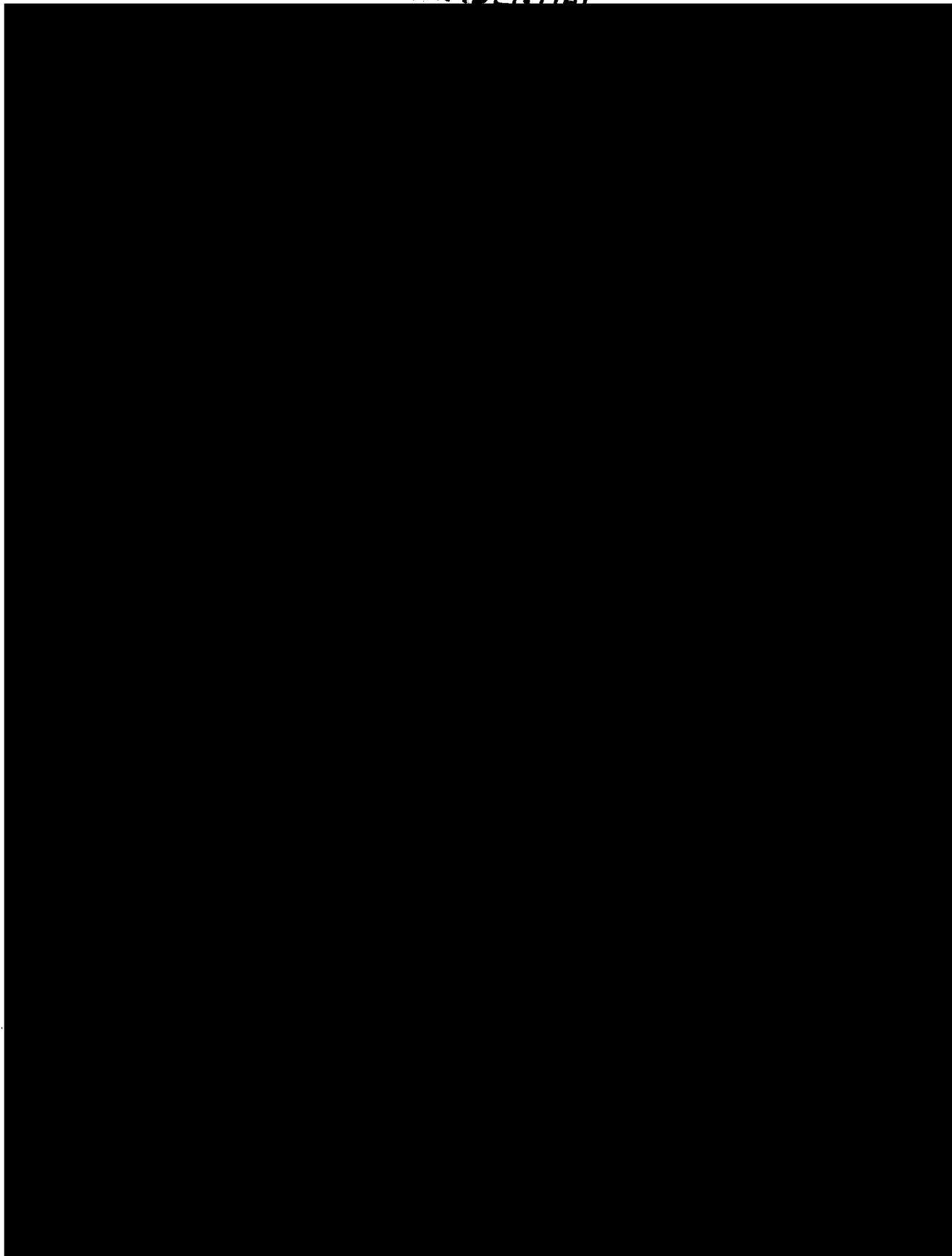


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Racial tension in South Africa is steadily becoming more combustible. Hard on the 2-3 November Krugersdorp riots* came the 11 November skirmish between Johannesburg police and 600 natives, in which three natives were killed and several injured when resentment over a routine liquor raid developed into street fighting.

As the frequency of spontaneous native riots increases, they tend to become more violent and better directed. Native feeling against white society continues to grow as frustration increases from the repressive measures of the Government's apartheid program of strict racial segregation. European reaction, on the other hand, grows out of mortal fear accompanied by a general conviction that a repressive racial policy remains the only practical safeguard of continued white supremacy.

7. South Africa boycotts UN committee in opposing trusteeship for South-West Africa

South Africa's walking out of a UNGA Trusteeship Committee meeting last week is basically a reflection of the fact that to white South Africans there is no question whatsoever about the status of South-West Africa. No matter what the pressure of world opinion, political isolation, or economic depression, South Africa would probably withdraw from the UN before reversing its policy of incorporating South-West Africa into the Union.

When the Malan Government announced early this year that the Union "no longer recognized the existence of the mandate" dating from 1922, and proceeded to give South-West Africa representation in the Union Parliament virtually as a fifth province, popular support was almost unanimous. Legally, the Government rested its case for ignoring UN recommendations upon the demise of the League of Nations, to which South Africa had been beholden for mandatory powers, and the absence of any explicit provision in the UN Charter that trusteeship agreements be submitted for existing mandates. Prime Minister Malan spoke for a united electorate when he said on 28 November that "in no circumstances are we going to throw South-West Africa to the wolves," meaning

* See ND Weekly No 89, 7 November

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the UN, and challenged the right of that body to extend its "interference mania" to South Africa's administration of the territory.

The South African UN delegation walk-out on 28 November for the remainder of the Trusteeship Committee's current session followed its boycott of the Committee's 26 November hearing when the Rev. Michael Scott presented the case of South-West African natives for international trusteeship of the territory. The decision of the committee to request the International Court of Justice to render an advisory opinion before September 1950 on South Africa's responsibilities regarding South-West Africa was, however, not opposed by the Union, which is confident that its action has been legally correct. At the same time it is quite likely that an ICJ finding against the Union would be ignored by the Malan Government as merely advisory--as each annual GA resolution calling for a trusteeship agreement has been ignored since 1946.

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The Conservative Party has accepted the responsibility of forming a minority government in Iceland after the President was unable to obtain a coalition government with majority support. The Conservatives cannot form a government capable of the decisive action needed to combat Iceland's economic difficulties, but it will be anti-Communist and not hostile to US interests in Iceland. Since there are elements in the Progressive and Social-Democratic parties which are not in favor of a pro-US foreign policy the Conservative party will have difficulty in implementing such a policy. Legislation will reflect a compromise on domestic policy as well, and since domestic issues are now highly controversial the Government's continued existence may be decided in that field. Icelanders are already speculating on the probability of new elections in the spring, but their likelihood cannot be assessed until the new Government's legislative program becomes known.

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